

The Moods of Spring on Campus

This spring I have worked on expanding my photography skills and some of this work I did on campus. In this article I would like to show a selection of my photographs.

In a first step I focused on wildlife photography. Unless one has great equipment – and I don't – this is tricky. Animals are usually shy and do not hold still. Thus it is necessary to plan a shot (often even before it materializes). The rewards are like this:



Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus Niger*), March 16, 2015.

The inspiration for a new and more ambitious project came from an unexpected source. I was very impressed with a series of drawings of trees and forests by Alison Jardine (graphite / charcoal on paper) that she showed on Twitter. I felt she had created very interesting moods. I was curious if I could do something similar with photographs.

On April 15, I scouted the campus forest for possible motifs. I was intrigued by a piece of bark that was hanging from a tree. Converting the photo to black-and-white gave it the dark and eerie character I had seen.



(April 15, 2015)

I revisited this spot several times. My initial plan was to create the best-possible version of the idea. April 21 was an overcast and stormy day and it seemed to provide ideal circumstances to take the photo I was envisioning.

However, when I arrived at the scene the sun broke through the clouds. Such is the life of a photographer, especially in spring! Nonetheless, I felt that the second photograph was a good contrast to the first one and that it might be a good idea to interpret the motif in different ways – thus catching the different moods of the forest in spring. When I visited for the third time the piece of bark had turned 180 degrees and so there was a new angle.

Here are the results:



(April 21, 2015)



(April 25, 2015)

My last visit was on May 1, a very bright and warm day. This time I wanted to capture just the opposite of the initial photograph: the vibrant colors and the energy of spring.

Additionally, in the first three photographs the piece of bark appears as a part of the tree that has lost contact with its source. In the final picture the close-up suggests a much more positive interpretation. The bark is suspended in air as if it were flying.

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(May 1, 2015)